(b) if so, which are the areas where such mobilisation of armed forces have been noticed so far;

(c) whether Government have any information about the Pakistan Army Chief's visit to their border posts and conducting the briefing on an "Operation Plan" against India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) Government have seen certain reports which suggest that Pakistan has undertaken certain measures to improve its operational preparedness. It will not be desirable in public interest to disclose details.

(c) and (d) Government have seen media reports of Pakistan Army Chief having visited forward areas including Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

Indo-US workshop on Eco-system in India under Indo-US collaboration

455. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had organised a four day Indo-US workshop in Delhi from the 4th to the 7th January, 1989 to identify some important Eco-Systems in India under Indo-US collaboration;

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof and what is the number-of projects covered under those projects; and

(c) whether Bhitarkanika-Knganga mangrave Eco-systems in Orissa was identified as one of the locations for Indo-US collaboration and if so, by when it would be taken up by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Some areas of collaboration were identified in respect of two wetlands (Kolleru and Pichola), two mangrove areas (Goa and Bhitarkanika) and one Biosphere Reserve (Nilgiri). But actual collaboration will commence after holding a similar Worskshop in the United States by associating institutions dealing with the subject.

Setting up of Indian Institute of Information Technology

456. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2112 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th November 1988 and state:

(a) what progress has so far been made to set up the Indian Institute of Information Technology at Bhubaneswar; and

(b) whether any project report in this regard has been prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) Initial ground work towards setting up the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bhubaneshwar has been done. In view of the large investments involved and the need to provide well defined directions in the establishment of the IIITs, Department of Electronics had invited views from a cross-section of academics and those engaged in the areas of implementation and application of Informatics and related disciplines, regarding objectives, scope, logistics and administration of these institutions. Their views have been received. In order to develop a convergent perspective of the goals etc. of these institutions. Department of Electronics held a Workshop where different aspects relating to the setting up of the institutes were discussed. All the recommendations are being further examined and the project report will be made after a decision is taken on these recommendations.

The main objective in this exercise is to develop expertise and manpower in the emerging area of Informatics and its wide spectrum of applications.